

Council Tax Bills 2018/19 – Frequently Asked Questions

The council will shortly be sending out the council tax and business rates bills for the forthcoming financial year and to help our customers we have compiled a list of the most frequently asked questions.

1. I want to set up a Direct Debit to pay my council tax / business rates.

Please call customer services on 01530 454499 who will arrange this without the need to complete any paperwork. Alternatively go to www.nwleics.gov.uk to set up a direct debit online.

2. My bill states I pay by Direct Debit do I need to do anything?

No - the payments will automatically be taken from your account on the dates shown on your bill.

3. I have received a council tax bill and I don't understand why the amounts have changed?

There may be various reasons why the amounts have changed, for example your entitlement to a discount or benefits may be different or the amounts levied by the County Council, the Fire Authority, the Police or Parish Councils may have increased. If it is not clear from your bill please contact customer services on 01530 454499.

See percentage changes below:

- *Average overall increase: 5.23%*

NWL District Council (set by us):

- *Increase: 0%*

Leicestershire County Council:

- *Increase: 5.99% - contact: 0116 305 7831 (3% Adult Social Care, 2.99% core element)*

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority:

- *Increase: 2.98%- contact - 0116 287 2241*

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire:

- *Increase: 6.41% - contact - 0116 248 2691*

Parish Councils:

- *Average increase: 2 % (but there are large variances between parishes).*

Special expense area

- *Increase: 0%*

4. I thought council tax wasn't increasing this year but mine has. Why is this?

North West Leicestershire District Council has frozen its part of your council tax bill for the ninth year running, but the other authorities that share the tax have not.

Leicestershire Police has increased their charge by 6.41% (£12 extra on each bill) and Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority have each increased their element of the charge by 2.98%. (This will show as 3.0% on the council tax bills due to the legal requirement to round the figure to 1 decimal place). Leicestershire County Council has increased their charge by 5.99%. This includes a 3% increase to fund Adult Social Care and a 2.99% increase in their core element (these will show as 3% for each element on the bill due to rounding). The Government has prescribed in law how the Adult Social Care precept is to be shown on your council tax bill. The amount shown is the cumulative amount raised for Adult Social Care in 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19.

In addition, your entitlement to a discount or benefit may have changed, which will affect the amount payable.

5. My bill says I'm in a special expense area. What does that mean?

An urban area like Coalville does not have a parish or town council, so the district council takes on the services they usually provide and residents in these areas pay 'special expenses' to the district council. Residents in other areas of the district pay their parish council for these services.

6. I want to let you know about a change of address / change in occupancy.

Please visit www.nwleics.gov.uk to tell us about your change of circumstances, or call customer services on 01530 454499

7. I'm struggling to pay my rent / council tax and wonder if I can get any help towards it.

You may be entitled to Housing Benefit towards your rent and / or Council Tax Support to reduce your council tax. You may also be able to apply for a council tax discretionary discount to further reduce your council tax and/or a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) to cover all or part of any shortfall in your rent. Please contact customer services or go to www.nwleics.gov.uk for more information.

8. What is an 'applicable amount'?

This is a weekly figure set by the Government and represents the basic living needs of the customer and family. All authorities will use this amount when calculating entitlement to benefit.

9. I have received my award letter and the amount of savings (capital) quoted is different to the amount I now have in my account(s).

The figures used in the calculation will be based upon the amount of savings you had when you last applied. If you are of working age, any savings you have that are below £6,000 will not be taken into account when assessing entitlement. This figure is £10,000 in for pensioners.

10. The state retirement pension/welfare benefit amount shown on my award is not quite what I receive.

Most DWP benefits are increased by a certain percentage each year which we work out for the new financial year. If your figure is not accurate please bring or send in your pension / benefit award letter so we can adjust it if required.